

CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A system for teaching phonics, comprising: a training apparatus that includes (a) a visual representation of a plurality of words using ordinary spelling[[: and]] , and (b) adjacently positioned clarifying symbols, wherein each clarifying symbol consists entirely of underlined or non-underlined letters of a standard alphabet.
2. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the clarifying symbols assist in sounding out at least part of each of the plurality of words.
3. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein at least 90% of letters in the standard alphabet compose the clarifying symbols.
4. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the clarifying symbols consist entirely of 24 letters of the English alphabet.
5. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the standard letters and the clarifying symbols together comprise an initial teaching alphabet consisting of less than 44 phonograms.
6. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the standard letters and the clarifying symbols together comprise an initial teaching alphabet consisting of 36 phonograms.
7. (currently amended) ~~The system of claim 1 wherein a prompt to shows when a plurality of the letters wherein at least one of the symbols has a prompt that shows that a portion of one of the plurality of words forms~~ a blended sound.
8. (original) The system of claim 7 wherein the prompt comprises a line under the plurality of the letters.
9. (original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a coloration of a selected one of the standard letters to show that such letter is silent in the word.

10. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising a modification of a selected one of the standard letters to show that the selected letter sounds according to the adjacent phonetic symbol.

11. (original) The system of claim 10 wherein the modification comprises colorizing the selected letter.

12. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein differences in case of the letters are not used to represent differences in sound.

13. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the adjacently positioned clarifying symbols are placed below corresponding ones of the standard letters of at least some of the words.

14. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising a reading assist card having a window sized and dimensioned to focus attention on a subset of the words and corresponding ones of the adjacently positioned clarifying symbols.

15. (currently amended) A method of teaching phonetic reading, comprising:

presenting to a student an alphabet of phonetic symbols consisting of underlined and non-underlined letters selected from the group consisting of a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z;

presenting to the student a word with an ordinary spelling; and

teaching the student to pronounce the word using the alphabet of phonetic symbols revising at least part of the word to include at least one of the phonetic symbols.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein phonetic symbols consisting of single letters correspond to short vowel sounds.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein phonetic symbols consisting of more than one letter represent long vowel sounds.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising displaying a line of words with ordinary spelling to the student to accompany at least one of the phonetic symbols and revising at least a part of the line of words to include at least one of the phonetic symbols.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, further displaying a sentence of at least five words with ordinary spelling, and placing phonetic symbols of the alphabet below selected ones of the words as aids in pronunciation of the selected words.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 19 further comprising displaying at least one of the words without a corresponding one of the phonetic symbols.